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6 November 1961

MEMORANDUM FOR: CIA Librarian *MS*

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SUBJECT: [REDACTED] Study of October 19 re RPO Positions at Embassies  
[REDACTED]

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Following several readings of subject study, which I consider to be a very excellent summarization of the mission and functions of PO's at

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[REDACTED] I would like to make the following observations

1. The real problem lies in convincing State, particularly [REDACTED] and Embassies [REDACTED] that the full-time American PO's there cannot be replaced by existing local staffs or any additional use of Foreign Service locals.

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2. I do not believe that State is questioning the raison d'etre for the position at either post -- one must presume that if the Ambassador at [REDACTED] were concerned about the American presence [REDACTED] the situation might be reversed and a proposal come forth suggesting the fusion of both positions [REDACTED] In either case, we are opposed to the proposal for the reasons which follow.

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3. Initially, we should develop the point rather strongly that the PO positions at Embassies [REDACTED] exist predominantly to support the needs of those agencies and departments of the U.S. Government which produce and/or evaluate intelligence. In this light, the role of the PO as the "civilian collector of overt intelligence" to complement intelligence collection by other elements of the U.S. Government, must be brought into sharp focus. This factual description of the PO's primary mission should serve another purpose: namely, indicate the complete inability and inappropriateness of local staffs to function knowledgeably in a classified area. It should be borne in mind that classified in this sense means knowledge of the "customers" in Washington just as much as content of papers or requirement patterns.

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4. Beginning with Section VI. Internal Operation of the Publications Procurement Offices on page 10, [REDACTED] report gets down to the meat of the problem, as noted in 3. above. This part of the report, pp. 10-13 inclusive, has been revised by us to convey the problem as we see it. We

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feel that

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feel that the PO at these posts does not merely represent one function or one agency, e.g., the commercial attache, the labor attache, etc., but is rather the representative of some ten (10) major Federal agencies and departments, four of which depend heavily on the PO for publications needed in intelligence programs in Washington and in the field.

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In line with the points raised above, it follows that CIA/OCR and State/INR must concur in the continuing need for a full-time PO at both [REDACTED] if the situation described by [REDACTED] is not to occur. To that end, enclosed herewith is a revision of Section VI of [REDACTED] study for possible use at a later date with [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED]  
Chief, Acquisitions Branch

Enclosure:

Internal Operation of the Publications  
Procurement Offices.

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